

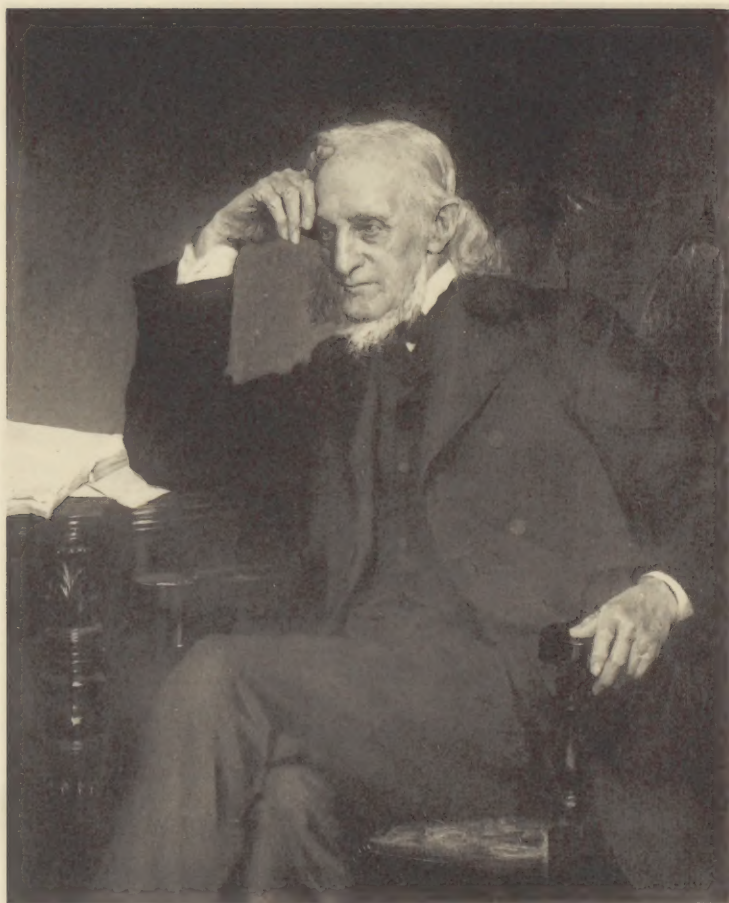
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MEMOIR
OF
HENRY WHEATLAND, M.D.

BY
WILLIAM P. UPHAM.

[REPRINTED FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOR JANUARY, 1895.]



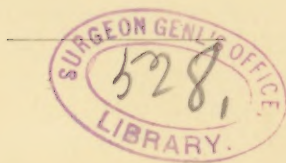


Henry Whittam

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M E M O I R.

AMONG the historical and scientific societies which have done so much to bring honor and credit to our country, one of the most useful and widely known to those interested in such pursuits is the Essex Institute at Salem, Massachusetts. This institution, formed in 1848 by a union of two societies previously existing, has for its object the collection of material and the diffusion of knowledge relating to history, science, and the arts.

With but very slender resources in the way of permanent funds, and depending almost wholly upon the immediate sympathy and interest of the community in which it exists and upon the gratuitous services of its officers, it has built up a library of over sixty thousand volumes and one hundred and seventy-five thousand unbound volumes and pamphlets. It has published twenty-nine volumes of "Historical Collections" and twenty-eight volumes containing, beside the records of its meetings, many scientific memoirs of recognized value. It has held innumerable "field meetings" and horticultural and art exhibitions, and in conjunction with an allied society, the Peabody Academy of Science, has gathered in its cabinets a vast amount of material admirably arranged for the study of science, history, and ethnology, and forming a collection which is open to the public and is examined and studied by many thousands of visitors, annually, from all parts of the country and indeed of the civilized world. Its influence has spread among the people of Essex County, to whose interest it is specially devoted, a taste for enlightened pursuits which gives character to the whole region.

The principal organizer and promoter of this institution, who gave to its objects the whole of his life without stint and without any personal remuneration, and who was for many years its honored presiding officer, was our late associate, Dr. Henry Wheatland.

The full and elaborate memorial addresses which were delivered by members of the Essex Institute at a special meeting soon after his death, and which have been published by that Society, render almost superfluous any extended memoir here. It is well, however, to place upon the records of this Society a sufficient recognition of the life of one of its members who in another field did so much to spread abroad an intelligent interest in historical matters, and whose career as the patient upbuilder of a most valuable sister institution is so remarkable.

I hope to be able to add to a brief summary of the tributes already paid to the character of the man some particulars of his life and of his family, together with certain reminiscences with which I have been favored by friends who knew him intimately. If space allowed, extracts from his correspondence and papers would illustrate his early and constant interest in matters in any way relating to his favorite pursuits, and would show the confidence placed by all investigators, in whatever branch of science, history, or genealogy, in his readiness to impart freely from the great fund of information which he had accumulated. While he leaves no special treatise or published work to connect his memory with any particular study, the number of those who remember with gratitude his incidental aid in their chosen pursuits, or his wholesome influence stimulating their enthusiasm for intelligent observation or criticism, may be counted by thousands, and includes many persons then or since of world-wide reputation.

Henry Wheatland, whose best memoir is thus to be found not only in the institution whose present high standing and success is, practically, the result of his life work, but also in the veneration entertained for his memory by all those who have ever co-operated with him, was born at Salem, Mass., Jan. 11, 1812, being the youngest of the six children of Richard and Martha (Goodhue) Wheatland. For the following account of the family of Richard Wheatland I am indebted almost wholly to a statement given me by Miss Caroline E. Bemis, of Salem, his granddaughter, supplemented

by some autograph memoranda which I find among Dr. Wheatland's papers.

Richard Wheatland was born at Wareham, Dorset County, England, Oct. 20, 1762. His parents were Peter Wheatland, who died in 1784, aged 75 years, and Bridget (Foxcroft) Wheatland, who died in 1817, aged 84 years. They were married about the year 1752, and had seven sons, John, George, Stephen, Peter, Richard, Robert, and a second John, and three daughters, Bridget, Margaret, and Anne.

Richard, in early life, went to London to learn the trade of a leather-dresser, which he soon abandoned for the sea. Having served three years in the British Navy, being stationed principally in the West Indies, he was discharged at the close of the war. In 1783 he came to Salem, and sailed from that port as sailor, officer, and commander of a merchant-vessel in the India trade. In 1801 he retired from the seas, and resided in Salem as a merchant until his decease, March 18, 1830. He married, first, Margaret Silver, who died June 13, 1789, leaving no child. He married, secondly, in 1796, Martha Goodhue, daughter of Stephen and Martha (Prescott) Goodhue, of Salem.¹ They had six children, namely:—

1. Stephen, born at Salem, Aug. 5, 1796, graduated H. C. 1816, died at sea Feb. 19, 1818, from a fall on board ship "Perseverance" on his second voyage, being unmarried. Dr. Wheatland states that by tradition he was very fond of music, "was a favorite and very popular with his companions. It seems as if the music of the family centred in him."

2. Richard Goodhue, born at Salem, Feb. 10, 1799, H. C. 1818. He was interested throughout his life in commercial pursuits either as owner or commander of vessels. "In 1837, having lost his ship (the 'Boston') on the Bahamas, he returned home with impaired health and was confined to his chamber for five years." He died at Salem, Feb. 6, 1842. He married, Feb. 23, 1823, Mary Bemis Richardson, daughter of John and Anna (Bemis) Richardson, of Newton, Mass. She was born Feb. 17, 1795, and died at Newton, Dec. 31, 1834, leaving two children, Stephen Goodhue and Richard Henry.

3. Benjamin, born at Salem, May 27, 1801, H. C. 1819, studied law in the office of the Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, of Salem "practised law for some years in Salem, then removed to New

¹ For additional particulars see the Goodhue Genealogy and Prescott Memorial.

Market, N. H., where he resided as agent of the manufacturing company in that town for about twenty years. Having been chosen treasurer of the same company, he returned to Salem, and continued in this position until a few months preceding his decease, which occurred Dec. 28, 1854." He married, April 9, 1827, Mary Eddy Bemis, daughter of Luke and Hannah (Eddy) Bemis, of Watertown, Mass., born July 4, 1801, died at Salem, June 23, 1864. They left one daughter, Martha Goodhue Wheatland, born March 12, 1828, died June 6, 1885.

After Benjamin Wheatland's return to Salem, he interested himself in municipal affairs. He held various official positions, among others that of President of the Common Council.

4. George, born at Salem, Nov. 10, 1804, H. C. 1824. He also studied law in the office of the Hon. Leverett Saltonstall. In early life he was active in politics, and was always characterized by an earnest, independent, and liberal expression of opinion and by good judgment. "To his intimate friends he was known as eminent in his charity, cordial in his friendships, and helpful to all around him. . . . As a lawyer Mr. Wheatland ranked high in the Essex Bar, and perhaps no one was more frequently consulted than he was by young lawyers who needed sound advice and safe counsels."¹ He held several positions in the City Council, and was a member of both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature. He married, Feb. 6, 1833, Hannah Bemis Richardson, daughter of John and his second wife, Hannah (Bemis) Richardson, of Newton, Mass., born Dec. 23, 1811, died at Salem, March 15, 1840. George Wheatland died at Salem, Feb. 20, 1893, leaving one child, George Wheatland, of Boston.

5. Martha, born May 29, 1807, married, Sept. 18, 1827, Robert Eddy Bemis, son of Luke and Hannah (Eddy) Bemis, of Watertown, born June 4, 1798, died at Chicopee, Mass., March 15, 1873. Martha died at Chicopee, Dec. 26, 1872, leaving one son, Robert Wheatland Bemis, and four daughters, Caroline E. Bemis, of Salem, Mrs. Mary W. Whitney, wife of Henry M. Whitney, of North Andover, Mrs. Sarah D. Fiske, of Malden, and Mrs. Martha G. Smith, of North Andover.

6. Henry (the subject of this memoir), born Jan. 11, 1812, H. C. 1832, married, Feb. 3, 1858, Mary Catherine Mack,

¹ Salem Observer, March 4, 1893.

daughter of Elisha and Catherine Sewall (Orne) Mack, of Salem, who was born Sept. 25, 1816, and died in Salem, Feb. 13, 1862. They had no children. Henry died Feb. 27, 1893.

It will be noticed that all the five brothers graduated from Harvard College.

The high character of Dr. Wheatland's family, both on his father's and on his mother's side, had no doubt much to do in forming those excellent qualities so early and so constantly apparent in his life. Through his mother he was descended from Rev. Francis Higginson, the first minister in Salem, and was related to Prescott, the historian, and to the distinguished descendants of the Hon. Roger Sherman, William M. Evarts, and the brothers Judge E. R. Hoar and Senator George F. Hoar.

The ancestry of Richard, the father of Henry, has not been traced beyond his father, Peter Wheatland, of Wareham, England. Dr. Wheatland, in a letter to John W. Dean, April 15, 1885, speaking of his family and that of Stephen Wheatland, of Winchester, England, says: "Possibly there may exist some connection between the families, but at present it is only conjectural."

Little is known as to the particulars of the life of Richard Wheatland prior to his coming to Salem in 1784, other than that he had honorably served in the British Navy. During his residence in Salem of nearly half a century, he acquired the esteem of the community, and attached himself to his friends by many excellent traits of character. In a notice of his death, which happened by an accidental fall while on an errand of charity, the "Salem Gazette," of March 19, 1830, says of him: "For many years he was an active and enterprising merchant, and was universally esteemed as a public-spirited citizen and a most kind and benevolent man."

In this connection it may not be inappropriate to reprint in full an account which I find in the "Salem Gazette" of March 5, 1799, of a naval battle between the ship "Perseverance," commanded by Capt. Richard Wheatland, and a French vessel of war. While presenting a vivid picture of the fierce encounters to which American shipping was then exposed, it shows the resolute character of Captain Wheatland. His success in the affair was perhaps largely due to his experience in the British Navy. The matter-of-course though "polite" way in which

his ship was overhauled on the high seas by a British frigate, and his papers examined, is an interesting bit of history.

A SEA FIGHT

Gallantly and victoriously maintained by the ship *Perseverance*, Capt. Richard Wheatland, of this port, against one of the vessels of war of the "*Terrible Republic*." The French rascals, contrary to the laws of war & of honour, fought under false colours, whilst the Eagle, true to his charge, spread his wings on the American flag. —

The following is Captain Wheatland's Letter to his Owners.

Ship *Perseverance*, Old Straits of
Bahama, Jan. 1, 1799.

GENTLEMEN, — Conceiving we may possibly meet an opportunity of forwarding this immediately on our arrival at the Havana, or perhaps before, induces me to give an account of our voyage thus far.

Until 26th. Dec. met nothing very material, except heavy disagreeable weather, off the coast; and having the wind so far to the Westward as to preclude the possibility of making our passage round the Bank, were compelled contrary to our wishes to go through the Old Straights of Bahama. On the afternoon of the 27th. were boarded by the British frigate *Romilla*, Capt. Rolles, our papers examined, and we treated with great politeness. They purchased (at our own prices) a number of articles from the cargo and of the people. Three days before they had captured a French privateer sloop, of 10 guns and 60 men, and retaken an American brig, her prize. After two hours detention, we were permitted to proceed, which we did, without meeting any interruption, till Monday, 31st. December — for particulars of that day we give an extract from a journal kept on board.

Dec. 31st. Key Romain in sight, bearing South, distance 4 or 5 leagues — A schooner has been in chase of us since 8 o'clock, and has every appearance of a privateer. At 1 o'clock, P. M., finding the schooner come up with us very fast, took in steering sails, fore and aft, and royals; at half past 1 about ship and stood for her; she immediately tacked and made sail from us; we fired a gun to leeward, and hoisted the American ensign at our mizen peak; she hoisted a Spanish jack at main topmast head, and continued to run from us. Finding she outsailed us greatly, and wishing to get through the narrows in the Old Straights, at 2 o'clock P. M. we again about ship and kept on our course. The sch'r immediately wore, fired a gun to leeward, and kept after, under a great press of sail. At half past 2 she again fired a gun to leeward; but perceiving ourselves in the narrows above mentioned we kept on, to get through them if possible before she came up with us, which we effected.

At 3 o'clock, finding ourselves fairly clear of Sugar Key and Key Laboas, we took in steering sails, wore ship, hauled up our courses, piped all hands to quarters, and prepared for action.

The sch'r immediately took in sail, struck the Spanish jack, hoisted an English union flag, and passed under our lee at considerable distance. We wore ship, she did the same, and passed each other within half musket. A fellow hailed us in broken English, and ordered the boat hoisted out, and the Captain to come on board with his papers, which he refused: he again ordered our boat out, and enforced his orders with a menace, that in case of refusal he would *sink* us!!! using at the same time the vilest and most infamous language it is possible to conceive of. By this time he had fallen considerably astern of us: he wore and came up on our starboard quarter, giving us a broadside as he passed our stern, but fired so exceedingly wild that he did us very little injury, while our stern chasers gave him a noble dose of round shot and langrage. We hauled the ship to wind, and as he passed us poured a whole broadside into him with great success. Sailing faster than we, he ranged considerably ahead, tacked and again passed, giving us a broadside and a furious discharge of musketry, which they kept up incessantly till the latter part of the engagement: his musket balls reached us in every direction; but his large shot either fell short or went considerably over us: while our guns, loaded with round shot and square bars of iron six inches long, were plied so briskly and directed with so good judgment, that before he got out of our reach we had cut his mainsail and foretopsail all to rags, and cleared his decks so effectually that when he bore away from us there were scarcely 10 men to be seen. He then struck his English and hoisted the flag of the "*Terrible Republic*," and made off with all the sail she could carry much disappointed no doubt at not being able to give us a *fraternal embrace*. The wind being light, and knowing he would outsail us, added to a solicitude to complete our voyage, prevented our pursuing him: Indeed we had sufficient to gratify our revenge for his temerity; for there was scarcely a single fire from our guns but what spread entirely over his hull — The action, which lasted an hour and twenty minutes, we conceived ended well; for exclusive of preserving the property entrusted to our care, we feel a confidence we have rid the world of some infamous pests of society. — We were within musket shot the whole time of the engagement and were so fortunate as to receive but very trifling injury; not a person on board met the slightest harm. Our sails were a little torn, and one of the quarter deck guns dismounted. The privateer was a schooner of 80 or 90 tons, copper bottom, and fought five or six guns on a side.

We are now within 48 hours sail of Havana, where we expect to

arrive in safety: indeed we have no fear of any privateers preventing us, unless *greatly* superior in force.

The 4 quarter deck guns will require new carriages; one of them was entirely dismantled.

We remain with esteem, Gentlemen, your humble Servant,

RICHARD WHEATLAND.

Capt. Wheatland, in a letter from the Havana, adds —

"The *Gentleman* we brushed in the Old Straits, 3 days after captured a brig from Charleston, and detained the Captain 16 days on board, and then gave him the boat and set the crew adrift. The Captain has since arrived here and informs us that the privateer was a schooner of 8 six pounders and 50 men; that a number of her people were dangerously wounded; that she had four round shot through her bottom, a bar iron through her counter, and four feet water in her hold, when she got away; that her sails were cut entirely to pieces, and the boat on her deck was shattered by our discharge of our bar iron. The villain fought under English colours. In fact they capture under English and American flags altogether. It is impossible to discriminate; and every armed vessel that approaches us (under whatever colours), if we can manage her, shall be fired into. The master of the privateer observed to the Captain, while he was detained on board, that his men were armed 30 of them with pistols and a short dagger each, and were prepared and determined to board the ship, but our booms and boarding nettings deterred him. The rascals run up along side American ships, under English colours, and jump on board, and capture the vessel before they are sensible of it. He had no idea we should dare fire into a vessel with English union hoisted."

The gallantry of young Mr. Ingersoll, on board the *Perseverance*, we are well assured, contributed greatly to second the determined bravery of Captain Wheatland in defending the ship. Indeed, the whole ship's company deserve well of their Owners and of their Country.

The story of Dr. Wheatland's earliest years may be briefly told. Of a rather delicate constitution, but possessing great tenacity of purpose and power of endurance, and surrounded by many refining influences, he seems from the first to have developed those studious habits which always characterized him.

Mr. Robert Stone, of Salem, writes me, March 18, 1893, in answer to an inquiry as to Dr. Wheatland's school days, that he remembers him as a schoolfellow in 1822 or 1823 at

Mr. Walsh's school, and that they ever after remained good friends. Mr. Stone says: "I do not see that there was any change in him from the time of our schoolboy days. He was always pleasant and genial, and always had my regard and respect."

Having received a good preparation, especially in the classical studies and in mathematics, at the grammar schools in Salem, then conducted by able instructors, Henry Wheatland entered Harvard College in 1828, at the age of sixteen, together with a remarkably large number of boys from the same town. In Felt's list of Salem graduates from Harvard the following thirteen are named for 1832, the largest number on the list for any one year: Haley Forrester Barstow, Charles Timothy Brooks, George William Cleveland, William Fabens, William Prescott Gibbs, Charles Grafton Page, Jonathan Archer Ropes, John Boardman Silsbee, William Silsbee, John Henry Silsbee, Augustus Story, William Henry West, Henry Wheatland.

In a letter which I have received from the venerable Charles W. Palfray, editor of the "Salem Register" for fifty-five years, he says:—

It seems to me I must have known Dr. Wheatland from the start ; but, probably, I first became acquainted with him the year before he entered College, when he was a pupil in our old Latin Grammar School and I in our old English High School, both in the same building on Broad Street. We were in College together one year, he in his last and I in my first year, and we roomed in the same building (Stoughton).

I regret that I can recall almost nothing of the school-days of Dr. Wheatland. But it may be worth noting that among his classmates, both at the Latin School and in College, was Charles G. Page, who afterwards became such an eminent scientist. I enclose a slip cut from the Register of Sept. 29, '92, containing some of my reminiscences of Dr. Page ; and if you can find in it the least hint that you can make available, you are perfectly welcome to do so.

I remember the Mr. Walsh spoken of by Mr. Stone. He was John Walsh, bachelor, lawyer, and instructor of youth, a graduate of Harvard, class of 1814, and was born in Salisbury, Mass., July 21, 1794, and died in St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 3, 1845. He was a Deacon in our First Church in 1829. His father, Michael Walsh, came to this country from Ireland in 1783, and died in Amesbury in 1840. The father, Michael, was quite celebrated as a mathematician, and was the author

of the famous Walsh's Arithmetic which was used in nearly all our schools in the first third of this century.

Yrs. very truly,

CHAS. W. PALFRAY.

Some extracts from the "Reminiscences of Dr. Page" may be appropriately introduced here as indicating the intelligent character of Dr. Wheatland's earliest companions, and as an example of the many happy influences which developed in him such a supreme love of scientific research, and such ready affiliation with all those in any way devoted to exact inquiry :

"And just here, as we recall the past, in a fragmentary way, it recurs to us that about this time,¹ often, during a thunder-storm, a small, stubbed-built, dark-complexioned, rollicking, Latin School boy, fifteen years of age, might be seen on the top of the schoolhouse, equipped with needles and other implements, experimenting with the lightning! That boy afterward became the eminent expert and authority in electricity and electro-magnetism, the late Dr. Charles Grafton Page. He entered Harvard College the next year, graduating in due course, and subsequently received the degree of M.D. at the Medical School."

After mentioning the important positions which Dr. Page filled, among others that of Examiner at the Patent Office, his inventions towards the use of electricity as a motive power, etc., and his valuable publications, Mr. Palfray goes on to say :—

"Nor must we forget to add that, even before he left Salem, we think it was, he foresaw and predicted the practicability of the telephone. And as a graceful and appropriate tribute to his memory, Prof. A. Graham Bell, its inventor, gave the first public exhibition and practical test of the Telephone in Dr. Page's native city, when, on the evening of Feb. 12, 1877, he delivered a lecture on the subject in our Lyceum Hall, before the Essex Institute, and a report of it was transmitted to Boston, and published in the 'Globe' the next morning."

As to Dr. Wheatland's life in college, it is said that "he did not take kindly to the College curriculum, but preferred to follow the bent of his own inclination toward science, natural history, and kindred studies; and, upon informing the President of the University of his utter distaste for the regular course, he was allowed to pursue his own way."²

¹ In 1827, when the English High School was established at Salem.

² Salem Register, March 2, 1893.

Among Dr. Wheatland's papers I find, in his own handwriting, the "Preamble" and "Constitution" of "The Harvard Linnean of 1832," with an account of the first meeting, at which were present Abbott, Adams 1st, Adams 2d, Glover, Howe, Mason, Nelson, Richardson, Silsbee 2d, Soule, Story, and Wheatland; Bethune, Page, and Russell were also named as "expected." Adams 1st was chosen President, Nelson Vice-President, and Wheatland Corresponding Secretary. The object of the Society is stated to be "mutual assistance in the collection and formation of cabinets of minerals and insects, herbaria of flowers, &c., by the transmission from one member to another of rare specimens in Mineralogy, Entomology, Botany, &c."

I do not find any further account of this Society,¹ but it shows that even then Dr. Wheatland had the same tendency towards organized work and co-operation in these pursuits which afterwards produced such permanent and valuable results.

After graduating from college, in 1832, he seems to have hesitated somewhat as to what course to pursue; partly on account of his own health, which was never robust, and partly on account of special opportunities and temptations towards foreign travel which presented themselves at that time. He, however, became a student of medicine under the distinguished surgeon, Dr. Abel L. Pierson, of Salem, spending his winters in Boston attending medical lectures; and, in 1837, received his degree of M.D. from the Medical School. It is probable that his only object in taking this course was to perfect himself in that branch of knowledge that he might the better carry out the purpose, which was almost a passion with him, of gathering up and arranging in a useful collection material for every kind of scientific research. He does not appear to have actually practised his profession at any time. He had already become an active worker in the Essex Historical Society and in the Essex County Natural History Society, the two societies from which the Essex Institute was afterwards formed, and his whole life from that time was devoted to the objects which those institutions represented.

Residing always in Salem, from which, indeed, after his

¹ It was only five years later, in 1837, that the Harvard Natural History Society was formed, which has since become a flourishing institution.

graduation from college, he was never away except in the line of his chosen pursuits, as gathering specimens on foreign voyages, or attending meetings of scientific or historical associations, he was for more than half a century known to a constantly increasing number of persons interested in science or history, as a reliable friend, guide, instructor, or co-worker.

He appears from his earliest youth to have always exhibited that happy love of nature and enthusiasm for research, that utterly unselfish devotion of all his energies to the accumulation, arrangement, and preservation of material, which eminently fitted him to take advantage of the culture already existing in and about Salem to carry out what became the great object of his life; namely, the establishment upon a sure foundation of an institution which should be unrestricted in scope, and which should constitute a permanent centre of influence for the enlightenment and instruction of the community.

So entirely was his whole being absorbed in this generous impulse and purpose, it seemed to give to his presence a remarkably serene and venerable aspect. All who came in contact with him paid him the tribute of respect, even though some might be inclined to ridicule such devotion to the gathering together of objects to them apparently of no practical value.

It was one of the triumphs of his later years that while formerly many, if not most, looked with indifference or slight regard upon the work to which he and a few fellow-enthusiasts were devoted, now there was a universal interest taken, and the institution, which patient and untiring labor had brought from a weak beginning to a sound and permanent life, was looked upon with pride, as one of the chief ornaments of the city, and an honor to the whole county. The Essex Institute, with the Peabody Academy of Science, was in constant activity, holding friendly correspondence with many persons and institutions in all parts of the country, and carrying on regular and profitable exchanges with foreign societies.

It was while thus enjoying the happy results of an accomplished purpose that he was suddenly stricken with paralysis, almost completely cutting him off from all power of communication with the outer world; and so he lingered some years till his death. But even then retaining his faculties of mind,

though able only with the greatest difficulty to express his thought, he still kept alive his interest in the Institute. Every day he was visited by the officers of the Society, which, in deep attachment, refused to recognize any other head, and as well as he could he gave his directions and his advice.

His countenance never lost that aspect of strangely attractive gentleness and wise repose which had ever characterized it. He seemed always venerable, yet always in a manner youthful. Such was his modesty and self-exclusion, it was only after long and earnest solicitation that he could be induced to have his portrait taken. It was fortunate for the Essex Institute that, through the efforts of his nephew, Mr. George Wheatland, he finally yielded, since it now possesses a most admirable likeness by Vinton,¹ to be without which would deprive it of one of its most essential elements of charm to visitors as well as to members.

Those who had always known Dr. Wheatland often remarked that they could not remember his appearance as ever much differing from that of his latest years, aside from the whitening of the hair and the somewhat decreased elasticity of movement inseparable from old age. At more than three-score and ten he seemed hardly older in expression of countenance and in general demeanor than in those first days when he was ever intent upon his beloved pursuits, ever ready to lead or join in the "rambles" in search of rare specimens of natural history, or visits to the hidden nooks where the first wild-flowers were known to show themselves, in dredging expeditions, or again in the patient work of properly preparing and cataloguing the accumulated store of material.

At the memorial meeting, already referred to, our associate, Abner C. Goodell, Jr., in his address as Vice-President of the Essex Institute, describing him as the founder of that Society, says : —

"The invariable reserve and quiet with which he pursued his labors for the good of mankind through two generations attended him to the close of his peaceful life of more than eighty-one years. . . . Nothing that he gathered in his mind, or had in store in the library and cabinets of the Society, was ever withheld from the needy inquirer. In the

¹ Frederic P. Vinton, of Boston. The heliotype which accompanies this memoir is from Vinton's portrait.

organization of the Institute it was his choice that no barriers of age or sex should limit the enjoyment of its privileges."

At the same meeting Prof. Edward S. Morse, the present Director of the Peabody Academy of Science, gave a highly interesting account of the personal appearance and manner of Dr. Wheatland, stating that —

"his profile bore a marked resemblance to that of Dante, as pictured by Scheffer. This resemblance has been repeatedly remarked upon by many who saw him for the first time. . . . While having a wide and varied knowledge in many branches of learning, the reserve and modesty with which he imparted knowledge were proverbial. . . .

"A serenity of manner, a sweet, almost coy way of imparting information, and a peculiar pursing of the lips when speaking of some quiet triumph of the Institute, or when the Institute, with its then limited resources, had anticipated other societies more richly endowed, are vividly remembered by those who knew him.

"He had seen the Institute grow from a few members, occupying a small hired room, possessing a few specimens and books and an empty treasury, to an organization of nearly four hundred members, occupying a large building of its own, with invested funds of over one hundred thousand dollars, and a library of sixty thousand volumes. In his view such a growth could not be arrested. . . . He looked ahead hopefully to the ultimate development of a large historical museum in which would be properly displayed the provincial and colonial records of the county, as well as records of the commercial history of this historic city."

Professor Morse well expresses the sentiment of all the people of Salem and its vicinity when he says:—

"Dr. Wheatland's identification with the Essex Institute is so complete that it is impossible to think of him and of the Institution separately. He was not only its father, but for many years he *was* the Institute, so far as being secretary, treasurer, editor of its journals, cabinet-keeper, and night-watchman could make him. . . . It is not too much to say that the Essex Institute, and indirectly its sister institution, the Peabody Academy of Science, may be looked upon as the results of Dr. Wheatland's life-long devotion to the cause of science and history in this community."

Mr. George D. Phippen, the first librarian of the Essex Institute, an able botanist and a "contemporary with Dr. Wheatland throughout his scientific life," gave an account of the

early days of the Doctor's career, which one is tempted to quote in full. I must content myself with the following brief passages:—

"My first recollection of Henry Wheatland was in the summer of 1831, or possibly a year earlier, and I well remember the youthful cast of that same classic face that has ever since so strongly impressed all who have made his acquaintance. His figure was then striking, of erect yet slender build, with light brown hair falling in loose locks nearly to the collar of his coat. He had a rather weak voice, quiet manners; was guileless and attractive in all his ways. . . .

"Amongst the earliest effective work of the Natural History Society, after the commencement of its museum and library, were the fruit and flower exhibitions, which tended strongly towards the improvement of our gardens by the discrimination and cultivation of choice hardy fruits and flowers, in great variety. This demonstration of popular zeal has since reached both its climax and decline, and now exists only in the fancied reputation of the 'old-fashioned gardens of Salem.'

"The unique feature of 'field meetings,' in which the public as well as members of the Society participated, was not introduced until 1848. . . . For many years, however, prior to this date, small parties of the more devoted members of the Natural History Society were accustomed to make excursions in the neighboring woods and fields for botanical and other purposes of investigation. . . . These pleasant occasions will long remain in the memory of those who participated in them. We were young then, and Dr. Wheatland could outwalk us all, when we sought out, perhaps to some of us for the first time, localities where grew the Trilliums, Pyrolas, Arethusas, and the frosted Droseras, or, from the borders of brooks and ponds, the floating Utricularias, Brase-nias, or Dortman's Lobelia which tempted us and dared our acquisition of them by a partial bath. . . . Minerals interested some of us, while others collected fresh-water shells and rare ferns, as we invaded the haunts of the turtle and the newt.

"We were fresh and impressible then, and a new 'find' filled us with a thrill of enthusiasm and a healthful glow of spirits that gold, gems, or honors in later days would have failed to excite.

"Dr. Wheatland was primarily a botanist, and knew well the localities of our native plants, and an array of their flowers, accurately named, always embellished a corner of our frequent local exhibitions; but this pursuit he gradually relinquished to younger members. As a student of medicine he was fond of comparative anatomy, and here he obtained the title of Doctor, which has always with, perhaps, profounder meanings distinguished his name. On the proper shelves of the Institute

are many specimens, particularly of the smaller animals, prepared by his own hands.

"He was interested in the study of conchology, and was fond of dredging the harbor for specimens. . . . He was at one time a devoted entomologist, and we have seen him throw the net for his brilliantly colored prey, which he immediately killed by a poisonous puncture before pinning them into his collection box. He also knew well how to throw the net for the capture of young men, whom he infused with his own glowing spirit ; and their names, not a few, now adorn the scientific institutions of the land."

In regard to the "field meetings" which Mr. Phippen mentions, and which, in the particular form of free popular gatherings at various places for local research and an accompanying meeting for mutual discussion and information, were of Dr. Wheatland's suggestion, and owed their success to his peculiar genius for bringing people into co-operation, I quote the following most excellent description from a commemorative sermon by Rev. Edmund B. Willson at the North Church, Salem, on the Sunday following Dr. Wheatland's death :—

"I remember most distinctly how much I was impressed when I first became a citizen of this place by the aspect of things here, and how soon I observed this man's influence in much which interested me most. . . . Perhaps nothing filled me with greater admiration at that time than the—to me—novel and original institution called a 'field meeting' of the Essex Institute. I had never seen or heard of anything like it. . . . It seemed to me the most thoughtfully devised and simply managed method of extending and popularizing knowledge, of quickening mental life, of teaching the value of observation and of opening the book of nature to the study of the young and curious of all ages, of which I could conceive. Here came a little group of specialists to a country town of the county, few, perhaps none of them, very learned yet, even in their own department of science ; but, though rating themselves as students and collectors only, possessing so much knowledge that they could study the locality and discuss its history and its natural history intelligently. And this they did. After a morning spent in exploring the vicinity, divided into parties according to their tastes and special studies, and accompanied by any one who chose to join them in the walk and the search, they assembled at mid-day, and after partaking of the refreshments they had brought with them, they made their reports to an audience composed half of members of the Essex Institute and

their friends and half of such dwellers in the vicinity, old and young, as were interested enough to attend.

"The more expert we will say in geology, mineralogy, and archæology now gave their interpretation of the geological formations of that locality, finding on that little spot of the earth's crust the signs of how it had come to be, hill and stream, rock and soil, the processes of pre-historic times by which it was being made fit for man's habitation; with mineralogical specimens before them they gave interesting information of the order of rock-making, the succession of deposits, the agencies of sun, rain, and weather, and of internal and external temperatures, in shaping this bit of the world to its existing contour and consistency.

"The botanist followed in turn with talk of the forests, the flowers, the plants, the vegetable growths of that same territory; made known the methods of identifying families and species of trees and plants, with leaf and bud and plant in hand to illustrate the lesson, all given in the simple and familiar conversational style.

"Then came the zoölogist, whether ornithologist, entomologist, ichthyologist or ophiologist, with their accounts of the animal life of the region, with specimens gathered from the waters, the woods and fields, to give flavor and color by illustration, and thus deeper impression to their discourse.

"From fossil implements, graveyard inscriptions, family and town records, the antiquarian and local historian brought interesting fragments of early settlement, family history, the developments and changes of industries, the statistics of schools and literary associations, of inventions and architecture, and whatever else would diversify, instruct, and entertain the meeting.

"Now, the most significant thing about all this was, to my mind, its simplicity and efficacy as an educational agency. . . . It opened eyes to see; it set minds to thinking. Without other text-book or teacher than this open book of nature, it became possible for each one to enter on a course of observation and experiment for himself by the roadside, in his dooryard, in the brooks, pastures, and woods of the homestead; everywhere were these most interesting and curious facts open to the discovery of one who had eyes and would use them, who had powers of thought and would think. The learned book would follow in time, the more perfect science would come later. Here was the start, the quickening of mind, the faculty and the thirst for observation and comparison set going, the foundation and beginning of all knowledge. And this far-seeing man perceived here the means of impulse and guidance, in line with all wise educational methods from Kindergarten to University."

At a field meeting at Manchester, July 18, 1856, Dr. Wheatland states that the first Essex Institute Field Meeting

was held at North Danvers, in June, 1849, and that "the programme of this meeting was taken from the perusal of an account of the Berwickshire Naturalist Club in Scotland," which held similar meetings. The wide scope of subject, however, and the popular character of the Institute Field Meetings gave it an originality of its own, and it is doubtful whether just such an institution has existed anywhere else.

Professor Morse mentions some singularly antithetic traits in Dr. Wheatland. He describes him as never enthusiastic, (meaning of course never demonstratively so) —

"yet he always kindled enthusiasm in others. While abstemious in the last degree, he never found fault with others for being otherwise. . . . While abstaining from tobacco and spirits in every form, he never interfered with the enjoyment of others in these matters. With unwavering devotion to the Institute, he never solicited aid for it or asked any one to become a member. . . . He dwelt in the past, and yet continually planned for the future."

Mr. Henry M. Brooks, Secretary of the Essex Institute, and one of its first members, whose quick perception and skilful portrayal of the quaint and curious are well known through his numerous publications, says of him: —

"The Doctor was always very neat in his dress, which was quite simple and inexpensive. . . . From the time I first knew him he had but one fashion for his coat. It was always made with numerous and capacious pockets, in some of which he had a store of waste paper and twine, so that he was ready to wrap up anything that might be given to him for the Institute, and thus save some delay. He even carried the scissors to cut the twine. He was very careful to keep his feet warm and dry, and wore rubber overshoes well into the summer. Some one said, referring to this habit, 'he left his rubbers off in July and put them on in August.' Of an economical and saving turn, he used small scraps of paper and old envelopes to make memoranda on, when there was plenty of paper at his disposal, but his early habit of saving clung to him through life. He had an old lead pencil which looked as if it had been used for years and not mended often. But all this saving was not for his own benefit."

I may add as another peculiarity that though he does not appear to have had any taste for music, poetry, or the fine arts in general, he spent liberally of his means for the encouragement of these branches of culture, and took great pains to add departments to the Essex Institute specially devoted to them.

In a letter of Oct. 17, 1893, from the well-known numismatist and antiquary, Matthew A. Stickney, since deceased, he says of the Doctor:—

“He was of a delicate frame, and with his student-like habit, would have been taken by a stranger for a member of the Society of Friends, as in fact he was, in his love for peace and harmony. . . . He did not excel in public speaking, but, like myself, was a collector. He disliked contention, in law, politics, or religion, and did not often converse on those subjects.” He was “a skilful planner of whatever he undertook, and in some respects resembled William Smith Shaw, one of the founders of the Boston Athenæum.”

In the letter from Mr. Palfray, already quoted, he further writes, after referring to his early relations with Dr. Wheatland:

“Our intimacy in after years is a memory to be treasured. I am glad you recall the regularity of his visits to the dingy old editorial den on the corner of Essex and Central Streets, which your father, of blessed memory, who so frequently honored and illuminated it by his presence, was accustomed to regard as a local curiosity shop, one of the oddities of our old Puritan City as people are now fond of styling it, and occasionally introduced a stranger from abroad to view the unique spectacle. How many the nights which never failed at a certain hour to bring the Doctor and Caleb Cooke, too early lost to science, and, later, Kingsley or some other incipient scientist, for a social chat before retiring! Ah! those were ‘the days that are no more.’

“And then, too, our constant companionship in meetings, excursions, rambles, &c., under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in many parts of the country,—the first at Dubuque, Iowa, in 1872,—how the scenes rise up before me, and how I wish I could do justice to them! But old age is merciless, and I forbear.

“Excuse the garrulousness and wandering of a dilapidated veteran in his 80th year, and believe me to be

“Very truly your Friend,

“CHAS. W. PALFRAY.”

It was a peculiar experience, conveying the strongest impression of Dr. Wheatland’s devotion and watchful zeal, to accompany him at the close of the evening on his regular round about the Essex Institute building where his treasures, the institute libraries and cabinets, were stored, and which

seemed dearer to him than his own life. He would pass through or look into every room from cellar to attic, without light of any kind, to make sure that no lurking fire or other danger existed, and, all being found safe, would resign the charge to the ordinary street watch. On the way home he would generally stop at "Palfray's," where the serene editor was always to be found surrounded by what seemed to the stranger an unfathomable abyss of confused books and papers, but which really was a collection most admirably arranged for his purpose, since he could place his hand at once upon whatever might be needed for the moment. Here the Doctor, aided by the hearty co-operation of the editor and free from interruption, prepared innumerable notices and accounts of meetings, exhibitions, excursions, etc., held or to be held, or wrote articles calculated to create a public interest in the ever varying enterprises of the Institute.

Professor Alpheus Hyatt, President of the Boston Society of Natural History, writes me, May 16, 1893, referring to Dr. Wheatland's unremitting self-sacrifice to the public interests of humanity and of science:—

"Our little community of scientific men were held together, perhaps, more largely by these qualities of his character than by any other single means. I well remember how completely he seemed to lay aside all personal interest for those of science when we first came to Salem; how studiously he avoided making himself prominent while helping every one to take that place for which he seemed best fitted, and finally cheerfully surrendered all the natural history collections, and the local influence of the administration of that division in the work of his beloved Essex Institute, to the newly formed Peabody Academy of Science."

He further pays a warm tribute to the many excellent traits so generally recognized in Dr. Wheatland, and concludes by expressing the "love and admiration" which he has for his memory.

The writings of Dr. Wheatland on scientific and historical subjects are scattered through the Essex Institute publications. Professor Morse, referring to his scientific communications, written and verbal, remarks that they indicate "a very general knowledge of natural science" and a special taste for zoölogy and comparative anatomy. His skill in dredging was well

known to scientists. He is stated to have first taught the eminent zoölogist Stimpson the use of the dredge, as early as 1850.

Among many historical papers the following are particularly valuable : —

Historical Sketch of the Philosophical Library at Salem, with Notes, *Hist. Coll.*, vol. iv. p. 175.

Materials for a Genealogy of the Higginson Family, vol. v. p. 33.

Extracts from Records of two Aqueduct Corporations in Salem and Danvers, vol. vi. p. 43.

Baptisms in the First Church in Salem, vol. vi. p. 227.

Baptisms by Rev. Benjamin Prescott, etc., Salem Middle Precinct, vol. vi. p. 258.

Address, as presiding officer, at the 250th Anniversary of the Landing of Governor Endicott at Salem, vol. xv. p. 114.

Baptisms at Salem Village Church, vol. xvi. p. 233.

[Some of the above are continued in subsequent numbers.]

Account of the Essex County Natural History Society, with Notes, at the Field Meeting at Topsfield, June 21, 1856, *Proceedings*, vol. ii. p. 24.

Report on the History and Progress of the Essex Institute at the Field Meeting at Manchester, July 18, 1856, vol. ii. p. 36.

Account of the Social and Philosophical Libraries of Salem, April 10, 1857, vol. ii. p. 140 ; continued, July 18, 1868, vol. vi. p. 33.

From the latter I quote the following admirable passage, showing in a succinct form the remarkable development of culture in the pursuit of history and science in Salem, and concluding with sentiments nowhere better exemplified than in the life and history of Dr. Wheatland himself.

"Some one hundred and ten years since,¹ at a meeting of the Monday Evening Club, composed of the leading spirits of that day, — the Brownes, Pickmans, Ornes, Higginsons, Lyndes, and Olivers, — the plan of organizing the Social Library was matured. Some twenty years later the Philosophical Library was called into existence by Holyoke, Prince, Barnard, and Orne of Salem, Willard and Fisher of Beverly, and Cutler of the Hamlet, now Hamilton. Thirty years pass away, and we behold Bowditch, Story, Pickering, Silsbee, and Putnam organizing the Athenæum, taking the two libraries above named as the basis of the new institution. Ten years later, White, Tucker, Salton-

¹ In 1758.

stall, King, and Ward are interested in the formation of an historical society to preserve the rich materials everywhere then abundant to elucidate the history of this section of our good old Commonwealth. Another decade of years pass, Peabody, Webb, Cole, Phillips, and Peirson are preparing courses of lectures on literature and science adapted to the popular mind, and hence arose that system of lectures which has been so prevalent throughout the country for the past thirty or forty years, and which has been a great auxiliary to the cause of general education. After the lapse of some three or four years, Nichols of Danvers, Oakes of Ipswich, Perry of Bradford, Page and Ives of Salem, laid the groundwork for a society of natural history to develop a taste for this study, and to extend researches into the various departments of nature.

"In this connection let us allude to the labors of Hodges, Lambert, Carpenter, Osgood, Crowninshield, Nichols, and others in organizing the East India Marine Society in 1799, and consequent thereupon the forming of the valuable Museum which has had a world-renowned reputation, and which, with the scientific collections of this Society, is being rearranged in the East India Marine Hall, recently obtained and fitted up with galleries and cases for their reception through the liberality of a son of Essex, whom governments and crowned heads delight to honor.

"Some of the above-named persons were interested in several of these institutions; thus, for instance, the venerable Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke was one of the original members of the Social Library in 1760, and at the time of his death, in 1829, was President of the Athenæum, and also of the Historical Society, having held that office in both of these institutions from their respective organizations, thus taking an active part in the institutions of this place for a period of seventy years.

"These have all passed away, leaving deep traces of their influence upon the institutions of this day, which are modifications of the preceding to conform to the wants and requirements of the age.

"Although much has been accomplished, yet we have only entered upon the threshold of the domain of science. More remains to be done before the objects which these pioneers have labored for can be said to be in a good working condition. This duty is never finished; the more an institution does, the wider the vista opens, and a greater amount of labor is found necessary to be done, increasing as it progresses in a geometrical ratio. It is a law of nature when any institution or organic object ceases to grow, decay commences, and a gradual dissolution follows.

"Let all who revere the memory of the departed, and desire to have accomplished, or at least greatly advanced, the objects that were dear

to them, come forward and extend a helping hand to those who bear the heat and burden of the day. Though dead, they yet speak in the recollection of their zeal and energy in all worthy undertakings; truly, their good works follow them."

Of the seventy-two members of Dr. Wheatland's class at Harvard (1832), but seven survived him, and of these two have since deceased, George T. Curtis and John S. Dwight. The latter, in a letter in answer to an invitation to attend the meeting of the Essex Institute in memory of Dr. Wheatland, writes thus of his classmate:—

"When I recall his venerable and Dantesque profile, his uniform sweetness and simplicity of nature and of character, his sincere devotion and regard for truth in his favorite sciences, his fine powers of thought and observation, his friendly interest in all about him, and his zealous efforts to rescue from oblivion all precious bits of personal history; and when I think how heartily he used to come to the reunions of our little remnant of a class, each time renewing the impression of these lovely traits of mind and character, I feel how much we have lost in these last years by his involuntary absence."

One of the present survivors of that class, Dr. William W. Wellington, of Cambridgeport, writes me that Dr. Wheatland "was regarded by all his classmates as a man of high moral excellence, a careful student, and a pleasant companion. He retained in after life the look of his younger days. . . . My recollections of Wheatland are all of the most pleasant character."

The large mass of personal papers, correspondence, etc., which Dr. Wheatland had accumulated became somewhat disarranged, during the last years of his life, owing to their being necessarily consulted and handled by others in order to answer frequent inquiries. The preparation of this memoir has been delayed by the work, which seemed desirable, of first restoring these to something like the methodical arrangement in which it is evident he kept them, so long as he was able to attend to them personally.

Though he seldom kept copies of his own letters, he carefully kept the letters written to him, and they will be found a valuable source of information on many subjects.

His genealogical memoranda were kept in alphabetically

arranged envelopes and in books, and make a large and valuable collection which will no doubt be very gladly consulted by genealogists.

There are also, besides many original manuscripts, minutes of record and memoranda relating to the organization and history of numerous local societies with notes as to the lives and families of their members.

Among his papers are diplomas and certificates from which the following partial list is made of the societies of which he became a member, resident, corresponding, or honorary.

Massachusetts Medical Society	Aug. 30, 1837.
National Institute for the Promotion of Science, Washington, D. C.	Oct. 12, 1842.
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston (a Fellow)	Feb. 26, 1845.
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston	March 7, 1846.
Concord (N. H.) Society of Natural History . . .	May 2, 1846.
American Statistical Association, Boston	Jan. 13, 1847.
Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston	Jan. 27, 1848.
La Real Sociedad Economica Filipina	Aug. 29, 1848.
Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society . .	May 10, 1849.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison . .	March 7, 1854.
California Academy of Natural Sciences	April 7, 1856.
New York Historical Society	Nov. 2, 1858.
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia .	Nov. 12, 1860.
Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier	Feb., 1862.
Portland Society of Natural History	Jan. 1, 1863.
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences	Feb. 3, 1865.
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society .	May 8, 1869.
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester . . .	April 30, 1871.
Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Boston . .	June, 1871.
Humboldt Collegiate Association, Humboldt County, Iowa	Sept. 1, 1871.
American Social Science Association	Nov. 15, 1871.
Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence . . .	May 6, 1873.
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond	June 2, 1880.
Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia	March 4, 1881.
Bunker Hill Monument Association	June 17, 1887.

Besides the above, Dr. Wheatland became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its first meeting, in September, 1848, was chosen a Fellow in

1874, and was for many years one of its Auditors. He was an original trustee and Secretary of the Board of the Peabody Museum of Archæology and Ethnology at Cambridge, and an original trustee and Vice-President of the Peabody Academy of Science for the County of Essex. He was Superintendent, from November, 1837, to October, 1848, of the Museum of the Salem East India Marine Society, an honorary member of the Danvers Historical Society, President for a long time of the Salem Fraternity, and was a member of many other local associations of Salem and its neighborhood.

He was always actively interested in the schools of Salem, and did much service on committees and as a friend and co-operator with the teachers. In 1854 he was appointed a member of the Massachusetts Board of Education by Governor Washburn. In 1856 he became, by the appointment of Governor Gardner, a member of the board of the first Commission for the "Artificial Propagation of Fish." The other commissioners were Reuben A. Chapman, of Springfield, and Nathaniel E. Atwood, of Provincetown.

Dr. Wheatland resided during the last years of his life until near its close on Chestnut Street in Salem. A few months before his death, having been for two years helpless from paralysis though happily without suffering, he was removed to the house of his brother George on Essex Street, where he passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, February 27, 1893, in his 82d year. Thus ended a long life, full of usefulness and of honor. To recount its history, however inadequately, has been a pleasing task to the writer, enabling him to do some service to the memory of one whom he regarded with an almost filial love and esteem.

